



August 23, 2019

Dear Lawrence Township Families,

Recently, the Indiana Department of Education released the 2019 ILEARN scores for individual students, schools and school districts. Attached to this letter are the score reports for your student. As you know, ILEARN is a new assessment for Indiana students in grades 3 through 8. As expected with a new assessment, there is a state-wide decline in proficiency rates. The Indiana Department of Education has issued the following communication points to assist local communities in better understanding ILEARN results and explain the state-wide drop in proficiency rates:

- ILEARN is a new assessment focused on college and career readiness of students articulated from elementary to middle school and ultimately to high school.
- Advances in technology are allowing for measurement of standards that were not previously measured.
- It is difficult to compare the 2018 proficiency rates from ISTEP to 2019 ILEARN proficiencies.
- It is understood that Indiana's students or educators did not decrease their commitment to instructional delivery or ability even though the cut score is lower.
- Indiana continues to reinforce college and career readiness through multiple pathways in high school to achieve success.

(Indiana Department of Education Communication, August 2019)

Although our school and district results are embargoed until September, I can report that I am encouraged by LT students' performance on this first ILEARN assessment. Each school's focus on rigorous teaching and learning is clearly making a difference. Most importantly, the improved data reporting system with ILEARN allows principals and teachers to better analyze the academic strengths as well as target growth areas for each individual student.

I celebrate the hard work and diligence of LT students and teachers and congratulate them on a job well done. If you have questions about your child's academic performance, please contact your child's teacher for further information.

Sincerely,

Shawn A. Smith, Ph.D.
Superintendent